

## CARL BRANDT WOLF, 1905–1974

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Carl Brandt Wolf was born to George Henry Wolf and Emma Amelia (Brandt) Wolf in Freesoil, Michigan, on March 22, 1905. The family moved to Oregon in 1910 and lived in or near Medford until June, 1915. They went to San Diego, California, at that time, and thence to Eagle Rock on the outskirts of Los Angeles a year later. Here Carl completed grammar school, graduated from Glendale High School in 1921, and entered Occidental College in September at the age of sixteen. At the end of his first year in college he decided he wanted some work-a-day experience and a bit more maturity before continuing his college training, so took a job with the Theodore Payne Nursery in Los Angeles. He maintained a close friendship with Mr. Payne throughout the remainder of Payne's life, and for a number of years served as a member of the Advisory Board of the Theodore Payne Foundation, a non-profit foundation dedicated to preservation of California's native trees, shrubs, and perennial wildflowers and to promotion of their use in ornamental plantings.

Following the year with Payne Nursery, Carl returned to college at Occidental, receiving his A.B. with a major in botany in 1926. He immediately began graduate work at Stanford University under the guidance of Dr. LeRoy Abrams, and qualified for a Master's degree in June, 1927. He pushed right ahead toward the Ph.D., continuing his study of native California plants, concentrating on the taxonomy and distribution of *Rhamnus*. In addition to his own classroom studies, Carl accepted a Teaching Assistantship, an appointment he held almost continuously until completion of work for the Ph.D., in 1930. Concurrently with meeting classes and laboratory sections, he did an amazing amount of field work, for he spent many weekends and nearly every available holiday pursuing his field observations and collecting high quality herbarium specimens. His field operations extended from the Canadian to the Mexican borders, and east into Nevada, Arizona, and New Mexico. His field notes were meticulous and voluminous, and labels accompanying his herbarium specimens bore much more than the usual amount of information supplied by contemporary botanists.

Carl was elected to The Society of the Sigma Xi in the spring of 1930. On June 14th he married Dorothy Anne Rhodes whom he had met at Occidental College in 1925. In September he accepted an appointment as Botanist at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, then located in lower Santa Ana Canyon in Orange County, California. He held that position until 1945.



Carl Brandt Wolf, April, 1964.

During that decade and a half, he carried on extensive field work, collecting thousand of herbarium specimens and hundreds of propagules to be moved into the Garden's experimental plots. He travelled widely to make these collections and once estimated that in criss-crossing California he had been within 25 miles or less of every point within the state!

Among native plants selected for ornamental testing was a strain of *Platanus racemosa* that grew rapidly during its early stages, often at-

taining a height of two to three meters in four or five years. He gave attention to many other native plants, among which were species of *Cupressus*, *Pinus*, *Arctostaphylos*, *Ceanothus*, *Eschscholzia*, *Fremontodendron*, *Garrya*, *Quercus*, *Ribes*, *Romneya*, and many others.

While living in Fullerton (a few miles from the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden), Carl began to set a pattern of civic service that characterized the rest of his life. He was elected to the Board of Trustees of the Fullerton High School and Junior College in 1942, and served until midyear, 1945, filling the President's chair during 1944-45. He was active in the Masonic Lodge and became a Shriner after moving to Fillmore.

In 1945 Carl resigned as Botanist at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden to become manager of the Sespe Land and Water Company and of McNab Estate Company, both of which, as well as the town of Fillmore, had been founded by his wife's grandfather, J. D. McNab, in 1886. Carl retained the managerial position until holdings of both companies were sold in 1967. During the 22 years he managed the family holdings, Carl devoted little time to experimental botany. He did, however, carry forward selection of citrus rootstock and development of productive strains of avocado trees. Also, he started and operated La Cienega Nursery, which specialized in citrus and avocado stocks. He experimented with several strains of ornamental citrus plants and considered the "Chinotto" one of his most successful developments. It is a dwarf tree that produces abundant crops of golden fruit that, although inedible, hang on the tree for six to eight months, enhancing its ornamental value.

Health problems beset Carl intermittently from 1960, when a kidney ailment nearly cost him his life, until his death on February 10, 1974, a little more than a month before his 69th birthday. Throughout that trying period he retained an optimistic outlook. He kept a keen interest in plants and their uses, in the history of his home area, and in the welfare of his fellow men. All those who knew him lament his passing. May his memory live long among his associates and friends.

#### LIST OF WRITINGS

1931. A systematic and distributional study of the New World species of *Rhamnus*. (Abstract.) Stanford Univ. Abstr. Diss. Ph.D. 6:21-23.
1932. More about giant cacti. *Cact. Succ. J.* (Los Angeles) 3:142.
1935. The Playa del Rey saltbush. *Occas. Pap. Rancho Santa Ana Bot. Gard.* 1:3-16. Observations on *Baccharis pilularis* DC. *Occas. Pap. Rancho Santa Ana Bot. Gard.* 1:17-29.
- California plant notes. I. *Occas. Pap. Rancho Santa Ana Bot. Gard.* 1:31-43.
1938. California plant notes. II. *Occas. Pap. Rancho Santa Ana Bot. Gard.* 1:44-90. Occasional Papers of Rancho Santa Botanical [sic] Garden. *Cact. Succ. J.* (Los Angeles) 10:141.
- Other species of California *Cupressus* as substitutes for *Cupressus macrocarpa* (Monterey Cypress). *Proc. 5th W. Shade Tree Conf.* pp. 34-42.

- The North American species of *Rhamnus*. Rancho Santa Ana Bot. Gard. Monogr., Bot. Ser. 1:1-136.
1939. Hybrids of the California flora. (Presented Pacific Sect. Bot. Soc. Amer.) Mimeographed. 7 pp.
1940. Plants of Clark Mountains, San Bernardino County. Mimeographed. 3 pp.
1942. California native plants for hedges, windbreaks, and background plantings. 13th Annual Calif. Spring Gard. Show Yearbook. 55-57.
- Natives—Santa Ana—San Diego. Calif. Gard. 33:1-4.
- Native plants for Riverside gardens—Selected list of plants suitable for the Riverside, California, area or other similar portions of California. Mimeographed. 7 pp.
1944. The Gander Oak, A new hybrid oak from San Diego County, California. Proc. Calif. Acad. Sci., Ser. 4. 25:177-188.
- Joshua trees, oaks, and buckeyes—a report on their crop production and possible utilization. Mimeographed. 48 pp.
1945. California wild tree crops. (Printed by) Rancho Santa Ana Bot. Gard. 71 pp.
1948. The New World cypresses. Pt. I. Taxonomic and distributional studies. Aliso 1:xiii + 1-250.
- Horticultural and experimental studies of the New World cypresses. Aliso 1:325-436.
- Note on two papers on Mexican cypresses [By Maximino Martinez]. Aliso 1:437-438.
- NOTE: A number of popular articles by C. B. Wolf were published in the *Fillmore Herald*.

**MALACOTHRIX TORREYI (COMPOSITAE), A NEW RECORD FROM CALIFORNIA.**—In a recent note (Madroño 21:535. 1972), Hardham and True discuss evidence concerning the occurrence of *Malacothrix torreyi* Gray in California and conclude that the only unequivocal collection of that species in the state is from Mono County (*Hardham 15084*, CAS). To this record I now add my collections from Inyo County, California, along U.S. 190 near the junction with the road to Darwin (*Davis 21-57, 22-57, 27-57, 30-58, 31-58, and 32-58*, DHL). I found these populations while visiting a locality described on the label of an herbarium specimen of *M. sonchoides* T. & G. *Malacothrix sonchoides* has been considered by some to be conspecific with *M. torreyi* (Williams, Amer. Midl. Naturalist 58:494-512. 1957), and is sometimes identified as the latter species by collectors not familiar with *Malacothrix*. The distribution of *M. sonchoides* and *M. torreyi* along U.S. 190, as observed in 1957 and 1958, was correlated with elevation. Pure populations of *M. sonchoides* occurred at 1280-1340 m, a mixed population of *M. sonchoides* and *M. torreyi* was found at 1417 m, and pure populations of *M. torreyi* occurred at 1463-1585 m. No evidence of hybridization was found in the mixed population and plants of the two species were easily distinguishable on the basis of vegetative differences and differences in flower color.

In the course of preparing a monograph of *Malacothrix*, I have looked at numerous collections of *M. torreyi* from many herbaria and have plotted its distribution in Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Wyoming. From these plots it appears that the populations of *M. torreyi* in Inyo County, California, are relictual.—W. S. DAVIS, Department of Biology, University of Louisville, Kentucky 40208.